The celebrated custom at Dunmow was to selemnly and rejoicingly present a flitch or gammon of bacon to any married couple who, a year and a day after their marriage, would take a prescribed oath that neither of them had repented their union, or had a word of quarrel. The claimants kneel on two uncomfortably sharp-pointed stones in the churchyard, and there, after certain other rites, take the following quaint oath: —

You shall swear by custom of confession. That you ne er made nuptial transgression; Nor since you were married man and wife. By household brawls or contentious strife, By hausehold brawls of contentious strile, or otherwise at bed of at roard, Offended caca other by deed or by word; Or since the parish clerk said Amen, Wished yourselves unmarried again; Or in a twelvementh and a day Repented not in thought any way; But continued true in thought and desire As when you joined hands in holy quire. If to these conditions without all fear, Of your own accord you will freely swear, Of your own accord you will freely swear, A whole gammon of bacon you shall receive, And bear it hence with joy and good leave; For this is our custom at Duninow well known, Though the pleasure be ours, the bacon's your own.

This droll mode of rewarding forbearing tempers was certainly current even in Edward the Third's time, because Chancer makes his merry, wanton wife of Bath say of her worried husband,

The bacon was not fet, for hem, I trow, That some men have in Essex at Dunmowe,

The flitch was, it is said, claimed on an average about once in a century. The claim of the 20th of June, 1751, was peculiarly immortalised by an engraving of Moseley's, from an original drawing of the scene made by David Ogborne. It represent the joyous procession on their return from Dunmow church with the flitch, and before the traditional quarrel had taken place, as to how the bacon was to be disposed of. The happy and successful claimants were Thomas Shakeshaft, weaver, of the parish of Weathersfield, and Ann, his wife. They knelt down on the sharp stones, as cruelly insisted upon, took the oath, and bore away the gammon. Moseley's scarce engraving was republished by Cribb, 288, Holborn, in 1826. The celebrated Bowles, of Cornhill, also published another large print, now rare, of the Dunmow procession. After the repetition of the oath, the couple were seated in a square wooden chair, still preserved in the priory (very small as it is), and carried round the site of the old manor, with drams and fiddles, and much noisy and exulting village minstreisy, the flitch, totally ruined by the process, being thrust through with a pole, and carried before them. The steward's lord and officers of the manor followed with the inferior servants. Then came a very interesting part of the procession, the jury-six ogling bachelors and six smiling and backward-glaneing maidens, who were by this great example urged onward to the blessed matrimonial state. The ceremony must indeed have been like a wedding break fast, a perfect seed-plot of future marriages. Many thousands of people from all villages and towns, even as far as the borders of Suffolk, then followed, shouting and exulting in this triumph of Love ann Hymen

The oaken chair used on this occasion was probably the official chair of some former prior of Dunmow, or else the official seat of the lord of the manor, being that in which the Fitzwalters for generations had, perhaps, received the suit and service of their servants. It was, however, a satanic device, the very Fiend's arch mock, the shrewdest subtlety of Discord, Mrs. Candor's grandmamma, to make the chair too small, so that the jammed and aching couple should quarrel instantly

they had won the prize. A custom almost precisely similar to that of

Dunmow, existed at Whichenoure, in Staffordshire, but is much less generally known. Pennant, who visited Whichenoure House in 1780, states that it was "remarkable from the painted wooden bacon flitch still hung over the hall chimney, in memory of the singular tenure by which Sir Philip de Somerville in the time of Edward the Third held the manor." The oath ran as follows: "Hear ye, Sir Philip de Somervile, Lord of Whichenoure, maintainer and giver of this bacon, that I, A., syth I wedded B., my wife, and syth I had her in my kepyng, and at wylle, by a yere and a daye after our marryge, I would not have changed for hane other, farer nor fowler, richer no pourer, ne for none other descended of gretter lynage, sleeping no waking, at noo time; and if the said B. were sole, and I sole, I would take her to be my wife before all the women of the worlde, of what condytions soevere they be, good or evyle, as help me God, and his seyntys, and this flesh and all fleshes." If the claimant were a "villager," corn and a cheese were given him in addition to the flitch, and a horse was likewise provided to take him out of the limits of the manor, all the free tenants thereof conducting him with "Trompets, tabourets, and other manoir of mystralsie." In respect to the Whichenoure flitch, Pennant remarks, that it has "remained untouched from the 1st century of its institution to the present, adding, jocosely, "We are credibly informed that the late and present worthy owners of the manor were deterred from entering into the holy state from the dread of not obtaining a single rasher of their own bacon.

In Grose's time the Dunmow lords of the manor tried hard to save their bacon, and refused the honorable trial of the flitch to several believers in the excellence of gammon. Probably, says the sly, fat friend of Burns, it was refused because "conjugal affection is not so rare now as heretofore, or else because qualification oaths are now supposed to be

held less sacred. The Dunmow flitch was first claimed in 1445, at least that is the first claim on record. Shakeshaft and his wife were shrewd people, for they made a large sum in 1751 by selling slices of the beatified bacon to many of the five thousand persons present. Gradually the custom slept, as good and bad customs sometimes do, had indeed a good nap of a hundred and four years, then Mr. Harrison Ainsworth, the historical novelist, made a gallant and disinterested effort to revive it. The lord of the manor opposed the revival as a nuisance, but Mr. Ainsworth and his friends defrayed the expense of the festival, and provided not merely one but two sets of claimants. We almost forget whether they were advertised for, but there they appeared as large as life, and much more real, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, of Chipping Ongar, and the Chevalier Chatelaine. an ex-Bordeaux editor, not unknown in England as the dexterous and rather daring translator of Chaucer and other of our poets. It was quite a romantic picture by Frith. Rosettes? We believe you! Banners? Rather! Fiddles, fifes and drums, trumpets, bassoons, and horns? Plenty of them. Whether the stubborn lord of the ill manner could not have been compelled by the Dunmow people to carry out the old tenure is a moot point which the crow merely throws out to the worthy lawyers of Essex generally. Let the cynics say what they like; let them compare marriage to a bag of snakes and eels (stuff!), to a lottery (pshaw!), to a birdeage-those who are in wishing to get

out, and those who are out wishing to get in (rubbish!), we despise such bitter churls (outon them). They know well enough (a pest on em!) the sour wretches, that every pair of us has deserved the blossed flitch, and that no one of us ever repented his marriage within the year-at least, let them say so who will. It was a goodly ceremony, and impressed on the Essex maidens those fine lines of the exshrew. Katherine :

"Thy husband is the lord, thy life, thy keeper, Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee, And for thy maintenance commits his body To painful labor, both To watch the night if While thou liest wa by sea and land, n storms, the day in cold, at home, secure and safe, inbute at thy hands, And craves no other orbute at thy hands But love, fair looks, and true obedience, Too little payment for so great a debt."

The last flitch given away was in 1860 .--All the Year Round.

## THE CITY TRUSTS.

A Powerful Argument by William Welsh-He Accepts a Posttion on the Board. The following letter has been made public: PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 11, 1869.—To James L. Claghorn, Esq.—Dear Sir:—The following statement is made in reply to your inquiries about one of the charities placed under the control of the Directors of City Trusts by the recent amendment to the charter of the city

of Philadelphia. In December last the Supreme Court of the United States, in a suit by the heirs, decided that the State, as sovereign, has ample control. over the Girard Toust, because it was entrusted to a municipality that is a creature of

The following is an extract from that deci-

"It cannot admit of a doubt that where there is a valid device to a corporation the sovereign may interiere to enforce the execution of the Trusts: either by changing the administrator, if the corporation be dissolved. or if not, by modifying or enlarging its franchises, provided the Trusts be not perverted and no wrong done to the beneficiaries.

From the experience of the last fourteen years it has become painfully apparent that the Girard Trust was "perverted," and that "wrong was done to the beneficiaries" by the act of 1854, enlarging the franchises of the city. At the instance of many of our purest and most intelligent citizens, and with the approval of the entire press, the Legislature at its last session almost unanimously remedied its former wrong to the widow and the orphan by "modifying the franchises of the city corporation" in strict accordance with the recent decision of the Supreme Court.

The framers of the Consolidation Act now see that it would have been proper to have perpetuated the charter of the old city in some modified form, to serve as a perpetual trustee of the property specially committed to its citizens in their corporate capacity. To compensate his fellow-citizens residing within the old city limits, and to induce them to be faithful trustees, Mr. Girard gave them the use of half a million of dollars, a preference over all others in supporting and educating their orphans, and the use of all the surplus income from the estate beyond what was necessary to maintain the college. By the Act of Consolidation, the management of the college and of all the Girard estate was taken from the old city and transferred to the then county. As children born outside of the old city limits have no preference in admission to the college beyoud those in other counties in the State, it is natural that the present trustees should claim political and other patronage, and appoint from the dominant party all the Directors of the college and every officer entrusted with the collection or disbursement of money. By the increasing stringency in the rules of political parties, this patronage is now claimed as a right, and surely no Trust of any kind, or any educational institution, can have the confidence of the community, or be managed with high efficiency, when its governors are removed with each change in party politics.

Mr. Girard tried to prevent the present lamentable state of things by forfeiting to the State all coal lands and other property outside of the city, if any one of the provisions of his will was "knowingly and willingly violated." A bill in equity was commenced in the Supreme Court in this State by the surviving executor of Mr. Girard's will, and by other citizens, to remedy the alleged defects in the management of the Girard estate: but eminent counsel suggested that if the suit was pressed a forfeit of this valuable property might occur, and that as the wrong had been innocently effected by the Legislature, it was eminently proper first to ask it to apply the remedy.

No one questions that the State has authority to so amend the charter of the city as to authorize the appointment of one or more city officers, in any way that it may be pleased to designate, and to entrust to them all the power now vested in the City Councils.

When the undersigned agreed to act as the representative of his fellow-citizens in endeavoring to procuse such legislation as would rescue the Girard and other charitable trusts from the corrupting influences of party politics, he expressly stipulated that he should be exempt from all further service, and that was his fixed determination. On his recent return from a visit to some of the Indian reservations on the Missouri river, he was surprised to learn that, contrary to the determination he had expressed, he had been appointed one of the Directors of City Trusts, Your arguments, and those of other Directors and disinterested colizens, have overbalanced his determination: therefore, he will be present at the meeting to be held on the 13th inst. Yours, truly, WILLIAM WELSH. No. 1122 Spruce street,

NOW IS THE TIME TO CLEANSE

YOUR HOUSE. WINCHER, HARTMAN & CO.'S WASHING AND CLEANSING POWDER Is unequalled for scrubbing Paints, Floors, and all house hold use. Ask for it and take no other.

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preserve your Tin Roofs with Welton's RLASTIC PAINT.

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TO OWNERS, ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, AND ROOFERS, ROOIS! Yes, yes. Every size and kind, old or new. At No. 54? N. THIRD Street, the AME. RICAN CONCRETE PAINT AND ROOF COMPANY are selling their celebrated paint for TIN ROOFS, and for preserving all wood and metals. Also, their solid complex roof covering, the best ever offered to the public, with prushes, cans, buckets, etc., for the work. Anti-vermin, Fire, and Water-proof: Light, Tight, Durable. No cracking, pealing, or shrinking. No paper, gravel, or heat. Good for all climates. Directions given for work, or good workmen supplied. Care, promptness, certainty! One price!

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THE PUREST AND BEST IN THE WORLD. This celebrated Brick Ice Cream and Water Ice can be

carried in a paper to any part of the city, as you would candy. Fifteen or twenty different kinds of them are kept constantly on hand, and ONE HUNDRED DIFFERENT FLAVORS can be made to order for those who desire to have something never before seen in the United States, and superior to any Ice Cream made in Europe.

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Next session begins September 13th.

7.17 am 3 THE MISSES ROGERS, NO. 1914 PINE STREET, have reopened their School for Young La dies and Children.

THE PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL OF DE-SIGN FOR WOMEN, NORTHWEST PENN SQUARE, will Receen on MONDAY, September 20. 2922 T. W. BRAIDWOOD, Principal. MISS BURNHAM'S SCHOOL FOR YOUNG Ladies opens September 20. Personal interview can be bad, after September 6, at No. 1616 Filbert street, For circulars, address F. E. GOURLAY, Esq., No. 605 WALNUT Street. H. D. GREGORY, A. M., WILL REOPEN HIS

CLASSICAL AND ENGLISH SCH COL, No. 110

MARKET Street, on MONDAY, Sept. 6. 825 lm\*

MR. G. F. BISHOP, TEACHER OF SING-ing and Piano, No. 33 S. NINETEENTH St. [821 Im THE MISSES GREGORY WILL REOPEN their SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, No. 2917 LOCUST Street, on MONDAY, September 13. 830 lm\* MISS BONNEY AND MISS DILLAYE WILL twentieth year), Sept. 15, at No. 1615 CHESNUT, Street, Particulars from Circulars. 8167w

MISS JENNIE T. BECK, TEACHER OF Piano, will resume ber duties September 6, at No 746 FLORIDA Street, between Eleventh a d Twelfth

W EST PENN SQUARE SEMINARY FOR Young Ladies, No. 5 S. MERRICK Street date Mrs. M. S. Mitchell'sl. The Fall Term of this School will begin on WEDNESDAY, September 22 Miss AGNES IRWIN, Principal. MISS CLEVELAND DESIRES TO ANnounce that she will open on MONDAY, September
20th, at No. 2023 DE LANCEY Place, a School for the education of a limited number of Young Ladies.
Circulars may be had on application at No. 243 S.
EICHTH Street, between the hours of 9 and 2. 92tf

WEST CHESNUT STREET INSTITUTE. Miss E. T. BROWN desires to announce that she will open on TUESDAY, September 21, at No. 4025 CHES, NUT Street, West Philadelphia, the late Residence of the Rev. J. G. Butler, D. D., a school for Young Ladies, Circulars may be had on application at the school, on and after Wednesday, September 15.

SINGING ACADEMY, No. 812 ARCH Street, Second Story Front.—The undersigned having secured the above sentral location, is engaged in fitting it up for class instruction in the Rudiments of Singing, Vocalization, Glee, and Madrigal Singing. Full particulars in a few days. Private Lessons as usual. No. 1207 FILBERT Street

S TEVENSDALE INSTITUTE, SOUTH AMBOY, N. J.—A Family Boarding School for Boyswill commence on September 6, 1888. Location unsurpassed in everything desirable for a school. The instruction will be thorough and practical, embracing a careful preparation for college, Circulars sent on request.

8 18 lm \* SOUTH AMBOY, N. J.

THE EDGEHILL SCHOOL, a Boarding and Day School for Boys, will begin its next session in the new Academy Building at MERCHANTVILLE, NEW JERSEY. MONDAY, September 6, 1869.

For circulars apply to Rev. T. W. OATTELL, L ASELL FEMALE SEMINARY (AT AUBoston and Albany Railroad). For seventeen years a leading New England Seminary. Not excelled in thorough
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7.27 6w CHARLES W. CUSHING.

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Rev. C. W. EVEREST, Rector, aided by five resident assistants. The school is closing its twenty-sixth year, and refers to its old pupils, found in all the professiona, and every department of business. Thorough physical education, including military drill, boating, and swimming in their season. Age of admission, from nine to fourteen. Terms, \$750 per annum.

The fall session begins September 7.

Reference—Rt. Rev. J. Williams, D. D.

Hamden, July 15, 1869. Gold, Silver, and Government Bonds,

The first term of the College year will begin on WED-NESDAY, September 15, at 10 o'clock. Applicants for admission will apply for examination at 103 o'clock. Students may pursue either the course of studies for the DE-GREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS or the DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCHENCE, in which the Ancient Languages are not studied, but additional time is given to the Mathematics and the Modern Languages, or they may pursue such separate studies as they desire, and which the Faculty may approve.

Fees for either of the full courses, THIRTY-FINE DOLLARS a term, payable in advance.

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> Owing to the work of remodelling the main building, the opening of the Fall Term is deferred to THURSDAY, September 16, 1869. Examination for admission on the

T AFAYETTE COLLEGE.

NO. 2 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK preceding day at 8 o'clock A. M. Classical Course, Technical Courses in Civil Engineering, Chemistry, and Mining and Metallurgy, and a Post Graduate Course. Requirements for admission may be known by addressing President CATTELL, 8 28 3w

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The Session will open on MONDAY, September 6. Applications for admission may be made during the preceding week, between 10 and 12 o'clock in the morning.

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T. BRANTLY LANGTON having leased the upper part the Third National Bank Building, will reopen h s School on MONDAY, tember 13. The facilities of this building for school purposes will be apparent upon inspection. The Gymnasium will be under the immediat ervisi of Dr. Jansen, and is being abundantly supplied with apparatus for the practice of either light or heavy gymnastics.

The course of instruction embraces all that is needed

to fit boys for College, Polytechnic Schools, or Commercial Circulars containing full information respecting Primary Department, College Classes, the study of Vocal Music, Art, etc., may be obtained by addressing the Principal as above. The rooms will be open for inspection after August 21.

August II.

6 T H E H I L L "
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FOR YOUNG MEN AND BOYS!
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Catalogues containing full particulars and the names of many of our leading citizens, patrons of the institution, may be obtained at Mr. W. F. Warburton's, No. 430 Chosunt street, or by addressing the Principal, as above.

Late Principal of the Northwest Public Grammar School. MISS ELIZA W. SMITH, HAVING RE-will reopen her Boarding and Day School for Young La-dies on WEDNESDAY, Sept. 15. Circulars may be obtained from Lee & Walker, James W. Queen & Co., and after August 25. AT THE SCHOOL. 727 hm J.—This institution, so long and so favorably known, continues to furnish the best educational advantages, in connection with a pleasant Christian home. Catalogues, with terms, etc., furnished on application. College opens September 18.

7273m JOHN H. BRAKELEY, President. HAMILTON INSTITUTE, DAY AND Boarding School for young ladies, No. 3810 CHES. NUT Street, will re-open MONDAY, September 6. For

DR. KINKELIN CAN BE CONSULTED ON circulars, containing terms, etc., apply at the school, which all diseases of a certain specialty. Office hours, St. 8, No. 33 S. ELEVENTH Street.